

Biodiesel Commission Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2007

Present: Reps. David Borden and Suzanne Harvey, Senators Harold Janeway and Jack Barnes Jr, Matt Tansey, John Rhymes, Becky Ohler, James Robb, Joseph Broyles, Bob Garside, Kelly Cullen, Joel Anderson, Kate Peters, Gina Rotondi, Will Campbell, Chris Kennedy, Tim Hickey, Scott Bryer, Dick Uncles, Dorn Cox, Barclay Jackson, Ihab Farag

Chairman Borden called the meeting to order at 10:06 in Room 304 of the LOB. He asked several attendees who were not at the first meeting what their main concerns are about biodiesel. Responses included distribution points and infrastructure; J. Broyles: sustainability, loss of jobs, energy dependence, environmental degradation, and developing feedstock; J. Robb: disruption in pricing with corn; J. Rhymes: bottleneck regarding selling the product in NH because of tariffs for on-road use; M. Tansey (representing Comm. Ball): forestry and natural resource perspective; Sen. Janeway: expressed interest in factual experience and finding what's appropriate for NH; I. Farag: wants to ensure that UNH is following the rules in its biofuels research.

Joe Broyles from the office of Energy and Planning stated that the potential demand for b20 would be approximately **41,000,000 gallons per year**

Dick Uncles clarified that included in the definition of a farm is \$1000 in crop sales/yr. He reiterated that a *commodity* is traded on the Chicago Board of trade, while the open market sets the price for *specialty* crops, such as vegetables, fruits, flowers. He was asked if the agricultural community has an interest in biofuels. He said yes, but the Agriculture Dept. is not suggesting the cultivation of crops now because there is no supporting infrastructure.

Dorn Cox noted that sunflowers have added value in addition to their use as a biofuel: while the oil is usually a by-product of the crop, the seeds can offer added protein to animal feed. Hence, there is the potential for multiple streams of revenue, but NH is not at that point yet, he added.

One issue is that equipment manufacturers are no longer making equipment to scale for NH farms and this affects the necessary infrastructure. Dorn added that harvesting, storing, and processing are the bottlenecks for biodiesel crops.

Approximately 50,000 acres of farmland could be converted easily and economically to bio diesel feedstocks. The yield would be approximately 5,000,000 gallons. An additional 2,000,000 gallons could come from the state's waste brown and yellow grease.

Chairman Borden asked about the possibility of doing an economic model. Prof. Cullen will work with Dorn Cox and Dick Uncles on this.

Prof. Farag of UNH made a presentation focusing on his research on algae as a biofuel. His presentation is available on the Commission's yahoo group set up by Kelly Cullen.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for August 30th at the DES office at Pease. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.